

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed September 23, 2005, applicants request reconsideration for the reason that the now cited reference (Barney et al. 6,556,992) is not prior art.

The Barney reference was filed September 14, 2000 and claims priority upon provisional application no. 60/154,066, filed September 14, 1999.

The applicants' application was filed on February 7, 2000, and claims priority upon provisional application no. 60/119,210, filed February 5, 1999.

As shown in the attached calendar for year 2000, February 5, 2000 fell on a Saturday. The next business day was thus Monday, February 7, 2000.

As set forth in 35 U.S.C. § 119 (e) (3) "If the day that is 12 months after the filing date of a provisional application falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday within the District of Columbia, the period of pendency of the provisional application shall be extended to the next succeeding secular or business day.

In view of the application of § 119, as cited above, it is respectfully submitted that the applicants are entitled to a filing date of February 5, 1999 and thus the Barney reference relied upon is not prior art.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application is therefore courteously solicited.

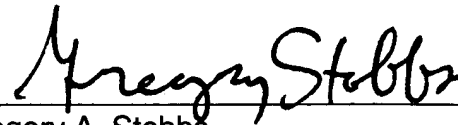
Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in a condition for allowance. Allowance is therefore courteously solicited at this time.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any matters relating to this Amendment, or relating to the present application, the Examiner is respectfully encouraged to call the undersigned at 248-641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 22, 2005



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September 2000

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